

*A Plea for your help  
from our suffering Orthodox Faithful in Haiti*

*"The problems of lack of electricity, unsafe drinking water, and high prices of essential commodities are poisoning the very life in Haiti!" -- Fr. Grégoire in Port-au-Prince, May 15, 2011*

After the earthquake of Jan. 12, 2010, life in Haiti has become much more difficult, at all levels. There are now all sorts of new problems but especially housing problems for some of our churches and believers in Jacmel, Port-au-Prince and Leogane. In light of all the new problems, the work of our priests in Haiti has become much more complicated.

Thanks to God, despite all of our problems, we have been able to hold on!, --by the many efforts on the part of our beloved Metropolitan Hilarion and those numerous kindhearted donors who have directed their efforts to help us through the "Fund For Assistance" of the Russian Church Abroad.

We understand that, more than a year after our horrible earthquake, most of the kind donors who helped us then, have mostly now forgotten about our need for help. This is why we are putting our hope in the continued operation of the "Haiti Orthodox Family Relief Program" (HOFR) which was established with the blessing of our Met. Hilarion a year ago. <http://www.haitiorthodoxfamilyrelief.com>

Thanks to this financial assistance program, the quality of life of some of our readers and some needy families in the Russian Church Abroad Haiti Mission has improved significantly. It is our heartfelt hope before God, that our kind faithful continue to accept to be "sponsors" for our needy and we especially hope and pray that the sponsorships whose one year commitment to help will soon expire, will please consider to extend their help into the future. May God grant!

All of our parishes continue their activities. Every three months all the Readers gather in Port-au-Prince for instructional meetings, Fr.

Deacon Demitrio Romeo from Florida, has agreed to come and assist with liturgics instruction at these meetings when possible.

Our four (4) schools of the Mission are still actively working, despite numerous difficulties. Cholera continues to claim victims, having already killed over 3,000.

Thank God ! - for the Fund for Assistance and Fr. Matthew's Williams timely efforts for shipping medical supplies and medical personal to the Mission. It was surely a great help; none of our parishioners have died from Cholera.

We continue to educate our people and our students about the disease. But that does not lessen the ever present danger from unsafe water, especially in the parishes of St. Augustine in Jacmel, and St. Irenarus of Lyon in Maissade. We really need a mobile water purification device that could perhaps be used by the several parishes. May God Grant !

As you know, "The most important thing in the life of a parish is the God-services." so said our beloved, reposed in the Lord, Met. Laurus. To improve our God-services, we are looking forward with great expectations, to the plan to send five (5) of our best qualified readers, to prepare for the priesthood, to the new Moscow Patriarchate (MP) Seminary in Paris in October of this year!

A special three (3) year program, free of charge, has been established for Haiti, as a great kindness to us for our special urgent needs. These young men have their documents in order for travel. We are hoping that the Fund For Assistance will be able to help with the cost of the air fare to Paris for our students since this cost was not included, apparently, in the MP offer for assistance.

We are happy and joyful to be a part of the Russian Church Abroad! We are the poorest nation in the western world but we are rich under the omophoron of the Most Holy Mother of God and the Holy Russian Orthodox Church!

Finally, we have compiled the attached information chart showing the locations of our parishes and some of the work done by the FFA and HOFR programs. of needs of the Haiti Mission.

Please, help us.

St. John Chrysostom explains that often, a begger will make up false compelling stories of their suffering, --- but we, seeing the falsehood, should nevertheless, give help to that man.

In Haiti, try to be simple and honest as we seek for your kindness.

In Christ,  
Haiti Orthodox Mission, Fr. Gregoire Legote, Port-au-Prince, Haiti  
Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia  
May 15, 2011

PS: Working with the blessing of Met. Hilarion, Fr. Deacon Dimitrio Romeo and Dr. Chad Husby Phd., both from Miami and working as assistants to the Haiti Mission and the HOFR program, have initiated a very promising agricultural program for our Mission parishes in Haiti. Their full report on this effort will be forthcoming soon.

PSS: Fr. Deacon Dimitrio is preparing a report and film clips of his visit to Haiti three weeks ago. Included in his work are short interviews with some of our HOFR sponsored Readers and families. We are hoping that our sponsors will be able now, to see and hear a few words from the people they have been helping in Haiti. Fr. Dimitrio will be doing more work along these lines in the future for the Mission, God willing.



[www.haitiorthodoxfamilyrelief.com](http://www.haitiorthodoxfamilyrelief.com)